



EXPEDITED HANDLING
GROUP NO. 3726

PATENT
0303-0436P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomohiko YAMAMOTO et al. Conf.: 1638

Appl. No.: 09/677,031 Group: 3726

Filed: September 29, 2000 Examiner: J.C. HONG

For: APPARATUS FOR TIGHTENING FIXING BAND AND
CONSTANT VELOCITY UNIVERSAL JOINT APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(SUBMISSION AFTER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE
BUT PRIOR TO PAYMENT OF THE ISSUE FEE)

HANDCARRY TO:

January 26, 2005

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street South
Customer Window, MS ISSUE FEE
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

a. Copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are not included. Copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are included.

01/28/2005 MGE BREM1 00000083 022448 09677031

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III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

a. **DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO 1449 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. **DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

An English language abstract is enclosed for each of the patents not in English.

c. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT**

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III) (A) (3).

d. **OTHER**

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

A foreign search report is also included.

FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, but before payment of the Issue Fee.

See the Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

V. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that

- a. each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 30 days prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- c. no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.
- d. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VI. PAYMENT OF FEES

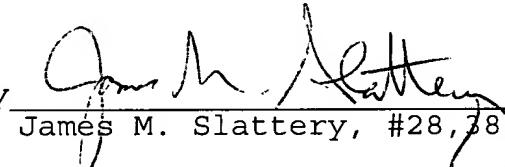
Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$180.00 for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) and as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). This paper is submitted in triplicate.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery, #28,380

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(703) 205-8000

JMS/mlr
0303-0436P

Attachment(s) : PTO-1449
 Documents
 Foreign Search Report
 Fee - \$180.00
 Other: _____

| Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small> | | | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 0303-0436P | APPLICATION NO. 09/667,031 | | | |
|---|-----------------|------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----|
| | | | | APPLICANT Tomohiko YAMAMOTO et al. | | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE September 29, 2000 | GROUP 3726 | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | DOCUMENT NUMBER | KIND | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | US 4,200,966 | | 1980-05-06 | NAKAO et al. | | | | |
| | US 5,672,113 | A | 1997-09-30 | TOMOGAMI et al. | | | | |
| | US 5,725,433 | A | 1998-03-10 | KUDO et al. | | | | |
| | US 5,911,301 | a | 1999-06-15 | OZAWA et al. | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| Office | DOCUMENT NUMBER | Kind | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB CLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| JP | 07-256531 | A | 1995-10-09 | JAPAN | | | ABS | |
| JP | 57-0151153 | A | 1982-01-26 | JAPAN | | | ABS | |
| JP | 07-251336 | A | 1995-10-03 | JAPAN | | | ABS | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.) | | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | | |